

Personal Input for August 14, 2019 Public Hearing on the Proposed Mining Rules

Idaho Department of Lands  
Sundance Conference Room  
3284 W. Industrial Loop  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

To whom it may concern:

Due to a scheduling conflict I can only attend the beginning of today's meeting. But I would like to have input with my comments.

As an avid outdoorsman and 20+ year resident of Idaho, I love our ability to enjoy our public lands for a wide variety of recreational activities. As a former Boy Scout adult leader and current Trail Life USA adult troopmaster, we take local youth into the outdoors to teach them outdoor skills and respect for our lands at every opportunity.

As a personal hobby I enjoy mineral prospecting and I am a member of the Post Falls Northwest Gold Prospectors Association as well as the nationwide Gold Prospectors Association of America. Where I used to be able to enjoy long backpacking and camping trips into the wilderness, my 70 year old body no longer allows this type of enjoyment. But I can get out for short hikes and enjoy the activity of gold and mineral prospecting still.

I too respect the quality of our streams and rivers and feel we already have enough laws in place to protect them from damage during use. We just need to enforce those laws more stringently.

Please do not add restrictions on our ability to sluice or dredge in our waters responsibly. Keep the Idaho lands open to people of all interests, not just those who want us all to stay at home and leave the outdoors to their personal enjoyment.

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8/14/19